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NEWTON ABBOT
URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORTS
OF THE
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH
AND THE
CHIEF SANITARY INSPECTOR
FOR THE YEAR

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H. M. DAVIES,

M.A., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.,

ASSISTANT COUNTY MEDICAL OFFICER:

DEVON COUNTY COUNCIL.

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH:

ASHBURTON U.D.C.

DAWLISH U.D.C.

NEWTON ABBOT R.D.C.

NEWTON ABBOT U.D.C.

TELEPHONE No. 715/6

COUNCIL OFFICES,

KINGSTEIGNTON ROAD,

NEWTON ABBOT.

NEWTON ABBOT URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL
ANNUAL REPORT - 1952.

Mr. Chairman and Councillors,

Madam and Gentlemen,

I present herewith my Annual Report for the year ending the 31st. December, 1952. The general state of the health in the Newton Abbot Urban District remains satisfactory, and the vital statistics in the report compare favourably with those for England and Wales and also for the Administrative County of Devon.

The Death rate especially after correction to allow for the fact that the population in Newton Abbot is on the average older than that in the more industrialised parts of the Country, is considerably below the National level.

The average age at death was nearly 69 years, and it is notable that for females the age was over 77 years, a remarkably high figure. For male deaths, the average age was 66 years. This variance is much greater than is usually found.

Another feature of note is the very low figure for the Infant Mortality rate in the town: only four deaths being recorded during the year in children under one year of age. For the second successive year, no Maternal deaths have been recorded.

The number of cases of Infectious Diseases has reduced dramatically in the year from four hundred and seventy-eight cases in 1951 to eighty-eight in the year under review. This is a normal occurrence and is due almost entirely to the fact

that Measles occur in severe epidemics only in alternate years. The disturbing feature of the report is in the fact that eleven cases of Acute Poliomyelitis were reported: an incidence of one case to 1,500 population. This is a high incidence especially when one considers that only twenty cases were notified from all other Urban Districts and non County Boroughs in the County, an incidence of one case to 12,150 of the population. No reason is apparent for this comparatively high incidence in Newton Abbot.

Once again no cases of Diphtheria were recorded, and again I must urge all parents to see that their children are protected by immunisation against this disease. It is only by continuance of this simple protective that Diphtheria can be entirely eliminated.

Unofficial action had to be taken on a number of occasions to obtain suitable accommodation for aged persons in need of care and attention. It is becoming increasingly difficult to obtain beds for these unfortunate persons, especially those for whom Hospital accommodation is required. Another disturbing feature is that in many cases the only accommodation available is in some distant part of the County.

I should like to thank the Chairman, Councillors and all members of the staff for the help and co-operation received during the year.

I have the honour to be,

Your obedient Servant,

A. Davis

Medical Officer of Health.

22nd. September, 1953.



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STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA

Area (in acres)	4,153.
Population Mid - 1952	16,870.
Population 1951 Census	16,393.
Rateable value as at 1st. January, 1952	£. 132,431.
Rateable Value as at 31st. December, 1952	£. 135,682.
Product of 1d. rate as at 1st. April, 1952.	£. 536.

VITAL STATISTICS.

LIVE BIRTHS.

	Male.	Female.	Total.
Legitimate	123	100	223
Illegitimate	11	8	19
	<u>134</u>	<u>108</u>	<u>242.</u>
Crude Live Birth rate per 1000 total population	-	14.34	
Corrected Live Birth rate per 1000 total population	-	15.21	
Crude Live Birth rate per 1000 total population Administrative County of Devon	-	13.59	
Corrected Live Birth rate per 1000 total population Administrative County of Devon	-	14.95	
Live Birth rate per 1000 total population England and Wales	-	15.3	

STILL BIRTHS.

	Male.	Female.	Total.
Legitimate	2	2	4
Illegitimate	-	-	-
Still Birth rate per 1000 total population	-	0.24	
Still Birth rate per 1000 total live and still births-	-	16.27	
Still Birth rate per 1000 total live and still births England and Wales	-	22.6	

DEATHS.

The average age at death, from all causes, was found to be 68.94 years, as against 67.36 years for 1951. The average age of all male deaths was 66.22 and for female deaths 77.37.

Male.	Female.	Total.
96	102	198.
Crude Death rate per 1000 total population		- 11.74.
Corrected Death rate per 1000 total population		- 9.39.
Crude Death rate per 1000 total population Administrative County of Devon		- 13.59.
Corrected Death rate per 1000 total population Administrative County of Devon		- 10.33.
Death rate per 1000 total population England and Wales		- 11.3.

Infant Mortality

{Death of Infants under 1 year}.

	Male.	Female.	Total.
Legitimate	3	1	4
Illegitimate	-	-	-
Infant Mortality rate (Death of Infants under one year) per 1000 related live births			
			- 16.53
Infant Mortality rate Administrative County of Devon			
			- 25.82
Corresponding rate for England and Wales			
			- 27.6

Neo-Natal Mortality

{Death of Infants under 4 weeks}

	Male.	Female.	Total.	
Legitimate	2	-	2	
Illegitimate	-	-	-	
Neo-Natal Mortality rate (Death of Infants under 4 weeks) per 1000 related live births				- 8.26
Neo-Natal Mortality rate Administrative County of Devon				- 19.69
Corresponding rate for England and Wales				- 18.9

DEATHS. (contd.)

Maternal Mortality.

No maternal deaths have occurred during the past year. The Maternal Mortality rate for the Administrative County of Devon is 1.02, seven cases having occurred within the County during 1952.

AGE AT DEATH.

	Male.	Female.
Infants under 4 weeks	2	-
Infants under 1 year	1	1
1 -	1	-
5 -	-	-
15 -	1	1
25 -	3	4
45 -	24	15
65 -	27	22
75 and over	37	59
	----- 96. -----	----- 102. -----

Total:- 198.

CAUSES OF DEATH.

	Male.	Female.
All causes	96	102
Tuberculosis, respiratory	4	1
Tuberculosis, other	-	1
Other infective and parasitic diseases	1	2
Malignant neoplasm, stomach	2	2
Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus,	6	-
Malignant neoplasm, breast,	-	3
	-----	-----
c/fwd.	13	9

CAUSES OF DEATH. (contd.).

	Male.	Female.
b/fwd.	13	9
Malignant neoplasm, uterus	-	2
Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	10	9
Leukaemia, aleukaemia	2	-
Diabetes	1	-
Vascular lesions of nervous system	12	15
Coronary disease, angina	13	9
Hypertension with heart disease	2	2
Other heart disease	16	22
Other circulatory disease	6	9
Pneumonia	1	4
Bronchitis	5	3
Other diseases of respiratory system	1	-
Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	-	1
Nephritis and nephrosis	-	1
Hyperplasia of prostate	2	-
Other defined and ill-defined diseases	10	14
Accidents (other than motor vehicle)	1	2
Suicide	1	-
	-----	-----
	96.	102.
	-----	-----

Total: 198.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

	Male.	Female.	Total.
Scarlet Fever	2	4	6
Whooping Cough	27	32	59
Measles	-	1	1
	-----	-----	-----
c/ fwd.	29	37	66.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES (contd).

	Male.	Female.	Total.
b/fwd.	29	37	66.
Acute Poliomyelitis	8	3	11.
Dysentery	2	2	4.
Acute Pneumonia	2	-	2.
Erysipelas	1	1	2.
Puerperal Pyrexia	-	3	3.
	<u>42.</u>	<u>46.</u>	<u>88.</u>

Total: 88.

TUBERCULOSIS.

Twenty-three cases were notified during the year, nineteen male, and four female, of which nineteen were pulmonary and four non-pulmonary. Of the twenty-three cases notified during 1952 eight - 7 males and one female - were in respect of residents at the Polish Hostel, Stover, seven were pulmonary and one non-pulmonary. Details are set out in the following table:-

<u>AGE PERIODS.</u>		<u>CASES.</u>			
		<u>Pulmonary</u>		<u>Non-Pulmonary.</u>	
		<u>M.</u>	<u>F.</u>	<u>M.</u>	<u>F.</u>
Infants under one year		-	-	-	-
1	-	-	-	-	-
5	-	-	-	1	-
15	-	3	3	1	-
25	-	1	-	-	-
35	-	-	-	1	-
45	-	3	1	-	-
55	-	6	-	-	-
65 and over		2	-	-	1
		<u>15</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>1</u>

Total: 23

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE CHIEF SANITARY INSPECTOR.

TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE NEWTON ABBOT URBAN
DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Mr. Chairman and Councillors,

I beg to submit herewith the Annual Report for the
year ending 31st December, 1952.

DRAINAGE.

In connection with the supervision of drainage work 118
premises have been inspected with regard to alterations,
additions or reconstruction of drainage systems.

295 tests have been carried out and a total of 432
visits made.

FACTORIES AND WORKSHOPS.

The following table sets out details of the inspections
carried out under the provisions of the Factories Acts, 1939
and 1948 :-

1. <u>Inspections.</u>	No. on Register.	Inspec- tions.	No. of written Notices.	Occupiers Prosecuted
i. Factories in which Sections 1,2,3,4 and 6 are to be enfor- ced by Local Authority.	19	35	9	Nil
ii. Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by Local Authority.	83	154	5	Nil
iii. Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by Local Authority.	2	Nil	Nil	Nil

FACTORIES AND WORKSHOPS (contd.)

2. <u>Cases in which defects were found.</u>	Found.	Remedied	Ref. to H.M. Inspr.	Ref. by H.M. Inspr.	Prosecution
<u>No. of cases in which defects were found.</u>					
Want of cleanliness.(S1)	-	-	-	-	-
Overcrowding (S2)	-	-	-	-	-
Unreasonable temperature. (S3)	-	-	-	-	-
Inadequate ventilation (S4)	-	-	-	-	-
Ineffective drainage of floors. (S6)	-	-	-	-	-
Sanitary conveniences (S7)					
(a) insufficient	4	3	-	-	-
(b) unsuitable or defective	11	19	-	4	-
(c) not seperate for sexes	-	2	-	-	-
Other offences (not relating to outwork)	13	-	13	-	-

FOOD INSPECTION.

Periodical visits have been paid to premises in which food is stored, prepared and handled for human consumption.

In addition to market stalls 118 premises come within this category the details being as follows :-

Grocers	28
Restaurants and Cafes	9
Butchers	16
Bakers and Confectioners	12
Fried Fish Shops	5
Dairies	8
Fruiterers and Greengrocers	11
Fishmongers	3
General Stores	19
Ice Cream Manufacturers	2
Hotels	5

FOOD INSPECTION (contd.)

349 visits have been made to these premises during the year.

Meat.

The Council's Abattoir is still in the occupation of the Ministry of Food and slaughtering of stock for the area of four other Local Authorities continues. It will be seen from the table which follows that the number of animals slaughtered during the year is higher than in 1951, details being - 2,933 Bullocks, 2,487 Calves, 9,868 Sheep and 715 Pigs, a total of 16,003. In addition, a number of dressed carcasses have been inspected bringing the total to 16,098.

	CATTLE: (excluding Cows)	COWS:	CALVES:	SHEEP:	PIGS:
NUMBER KILLED:	1884	1049	2487	9868	715
NUMBER INSPECTED:	1885	1053	2488	9925	747
All diseases other than Tuberculosis (i) Whole carcasses condemned.	11	23	20	50	11
(ii) Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned.	540	569	32	999	97
% of animals inspected affected by disease other than Tuberculosis.	28.17%	56.22%	2.09%	10.57%	14.46%
Tuberculosis only (i) Whole carcasses condemned.	15	30	7	-	6
(ii) carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned.	119	191	2	-	71
% of animals inspected affected by Tuberculosis.	7.11%	20.99%	.362%	-	10.31%

FOOD INSPECTION (contd.)

Meat (contd.)

Comparison with slaughtering in previous years is as follows :-

	<u>1949</u>	<u>1950</u>	<u>1951</u>	<u>1952</u>
Bullocks	2,403	2,665	2,721	2,933
Calves	1,922	2,383	2,961	2,487
Sheep	10,587	11,624	9,565	9,868
Pigs	329	394	876	715

This department has again maintained complete inspection of all animals passing through the Abattoir necessitating Sunday duties and much work outside normal working hours. It is not perhaps realised that this duty amounts in the aggregate to half of the working time of this department's officers. A total of 668 visits have been made in this connection

Ice Cream.

Production of Ice Cream is carried out on a large scale by two producers in this district, in both cases by heat treatment methods with up-to-date plant, and on a seasonal basis by one small scale producer by the cold mix method.

14 samples were submitted to the Public Health Laboratories during the year with the following results :-

8	-	Grade 1
2	-	Grade 2
3	-	Grade 3
1	-	Grade 4

Comparison with previous years is shown by the following table indicating the percentage of samples falling into the various classifications :-

	<u>1949</u>	<u>1950</u>	<u>1951</u>	<u>1952</u>
Grade 1	20%	42.5%	63.2%	57%
Grade 2	30%	30%	13.2%	14.3%
Grade 3	15%	22.5%	5.2%	21.4%
Grade 4	35%	5%	18.4%	7.1%

FOOD INSPECTION (contd.)

Unsound Food.

Details of food from all sources found to be unfit for human consumption during the year is as follows :-

- 79 Bullock carcasses and offal.
- 17 Pig carcasses and offal.
- 50 Sheep carcasses and offal.
- 27 Calf carcasses and offal.
- 216 Bovine heads.
- 49 Pig's heads.
- 3 Sheep's heads.
- 3 Calf's heads.
- 2,800 Organs and parts.
- 4,222 lbs. Beef.
- 41 lbs. Veal.
- 261 lbs. Mutton.
- 76 lbs. Ham.
- 4 lbs. Bacon.
- 256 lbs. Pork.
- 70 lbs. Pork Bones.
- 157 lbs. Sausages.
- 848 tins Fruit.
- 487 tins Meat.
- 106 tins Vegetables.
- 58 tins Jam.
- 142 tins Milk.
- 60 tins Fish.
- 92 tins Pudding Mixture.
- 65 tins Soup.
- 76 tins Peas.
- 24 tins Beans.
- 17 tins Sausages.
- 1 tin Peanut Butter.
- 10 jars Cream Spread.
- 3 boxes Grape Nuts.
- 11 lbs. Dried Egg Powder.
- 70 lbs. Chocolate.
- 21 lbs. Spaghetti.
- 17 lbs. Currants.
- 74 Chicken.
- 20 Pork Pies.

It is again pleasing to be able to report that in no case was it necessary to formally seize the unsound food, all being voluntarily surrendered for destruction.

HOUSING.

This subject rightly continues to occupy a large proportion of time in my department both as regards the repair and/or improvement of properties and the rehousing of families living under unsatisfactory conditions.

The question of the relation between rents and costs of repairs in the case of sub-standard houses remains a vexed one. It is realised that no Government relishes the idea of having to take action which will result in any rent increase and if only for this reason, the subject is one which should be removed from the field of party politics and be treated as a matter of national importance.

The repairs and/or improvement of properties is summarised in the following figures :-

Number of dwelling houses inspected for defects	- 112
Number of inspections made	-- 386
Number of informal notices served to remedy defects-	69
Number of statutory notices served:	
(a) under Public Health Act, 1936	- 3
(b) under Section 9, Housing Act, 1936	- 8
(c) under Section 11, Housing Act, 1936	- 4
Number of dwelling houses rendered fit	- 62

The number of new Council houses occupied during the year was 44 and in addition 35 private houses were constructed.

The number of applicants for Council houses continues in excess of the 500 mark. This figure includes approximately 100 cases of applicants waiting to satisfy the one years' waiting period necessary to qualify for inclusion on the current housing register. The tow figures seem to remain constant, but it should be remembered that the total figure includes cases where applicants would like a Council house but cannot be said to need one.

Examination of housing applications gives a pointed indication of the present day tendency of young couples who marry living with one or other of their parents, and of the increasing proportion of applicants who were born in a Council house, live in a Council house on marriage, and eventually get allocated a new Council house.

PUBLIC CLEANSING.

Refuse Collection.

A weekly collection of house refuse and trade refuse has been maintained, and in co-operation with the Rural District Council the clearance of refuse from the Royal Show site was carried out.

Refuse Disposal.

Controlled tipping has continued on the site adjoining the Torquay Road and also at the rear of Forde Road. In the case of the former site it is clear that tipping on the low level portion of the site will be completed in the very near future, providing an addition of land suitable for putting to useful purpose in place of what was originally a swamp.

PUBLIC CLEANSING (contd.)

Salvage.

The year under review is the second to experience a slump in the sale of waste paper. At the beginning of 1952 difficulty was experienced in disposing of waste paper and this continued until the middle of the year. Only a proportion of the paper in stock was then sold, and by that time the price had dropped from an average of about £25 per ton to about £6.10.0 per ton. The end of the year saw a considerable stock of waste paper being held, and collection being restricted with merchants asking for collection to continue against the possibility of sales and prices rising.

The amount collected in respect of sales of salvaged materials was as follows :-

27 tons waste paper valued at £307

3½ cwt. rags valued at £4.10.0.

RODENT CONTROL.

The methods of treatment recommended by the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries are carried out in the district, one member of the manual labour staff being employed in baiting and poisoning at premises where infestation is found.

The sewerage system of the town has been treated twice during the year, test baiting of the whole system being carried out prior to one treatment and previously infested manholes and ones adjacent to them being dealt with on the second treatment.

61 premises have been treated and a total of 228 visits made in carrying out this branch of the work.

STAFF.

During the year Miss Davies terminated her appointment as Clerk in my department, and Miss Clark was appointed.

I wish to record my thanks to Mr. Saunders and Miss Clark for the able manner in which their work has been carried out and for the assistance they have given to me.

In conclusion I again desire to express to members of the Council my appreciation of the support and consideration extended to me, and also to colleagues for the co-operation received from them.

I am,

Your obedient servant,

C.E. PETHICK, F.S.I.A.

Chief Sanitary Inspector.

